THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) Financial assistance in the wake of natural calamities is provided to States through the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), which is supplemented by the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in cases of a calamity of a severe nature after following the laid down procedure.

Execution of relief measures at ground level is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Govt. of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing requisite logistics and financial support, wherever necessary.

Under the existing norms there is no provision for providing dwelling units under the CRF/NCCF. Instead, the norms provide for cash relief at different rates for damaged houses. The State Government has informed that the number of people, district-wise, who are yet to be paid assistance as per the prevailing rates is being ascertained from Deputy Commissioners, and that time-bound plan will be made to pay 'rehabilitation grant' for damaged houses at admissible rates on receipt of information from the Deputy Commissioners as early as possible.

(d) The State of Assam was allocated Rs. 123.36 crore, including a Central share of Rs. 92.52 crore through the CRF during the year 2004-05. The entire amount of Central assistance was released to the State. The State Government had submitted two memoranda in respect of the rains/floods in 2004. Based on the expenditure details received from the State Government, an additional amount of Rs.211.55 crore was released to the State Government from NCCF. This amount includes assistance of Rs. 103.426 crore for repair of 4,90,699 damaged houses as per CRF norms. The State utilized a total of Rs. 242.86 crore during 2004-05, as per information given by Accountant General (A and E), Assam.

Relief measures for exporters

*132. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is seeking export relief measures as there has been downfall in exports;

(b) whether the Ministry has come to the conclusion that the problem exporters face primarily relate to the non-payment or delayed payment;

(c) if so, whether Government has considered this and has prepared some mechanism to meet this; and

(d) if so, to what extent credit support to exporters has been provided and to what extent it has helped exporters?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) Exporters are presently facing problems on account of global financial crisis and economic slowdown. One of the difficulties stated by trade and industry is delayed receipt of export

realization. As an immediate relief, RBI has taken the following measures during last few months:-

(i) Enhancing the period of pre-shipment and post-shipment Rupee Export Credit by 90 days each;

(ii) Reducing CRR, SLR, Repo rate and Reverse Repo rate, with a view to increase liquidity to the Banks;

(iii) Enhancing the limit of Export Credit Refinance (ECR) facility for commercial banks to 50% of the outstanding Rupee Export Credit:

(iv) Increasing the time period of export realization for non-status holder exporters to 12 months.

Government has also taken the following decisions to provide additional support to exporters:-

(i) Interest subvention of 2% has been provided to the following labour intensive sectors:

Textiles (including Handlooms), Handicrafts, Leather, Gems and Jewellery, Marine Products and SMEs.

(ii) Export duty on export of Iron ore fines withdrawn and for iron ore lumps reduced to 5%;

(iii) Additional funds of Rs. 1100 crores provided to clear the backlog claims of TED/CST/Duty Drawback on deemed exports;

(iv) Additional funds of Rs. 1400 crores provided to clear the backlog of TUF scheme claims;

(v) Additional funds of Rs. 350 crores provided as export incentives.

(vi) Extension of Rs. 350 crores back up cover to ECGC for issuance of Credit Guarantee to exporters.

Decline in export of textiles and garments

*133. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of textiles and garments has decreased in the last six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is aware that many workers have lost their jobs in the textile cities like Tirupur in Tamil Nadu, etc.; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) As per the latest provisional data available with the Government, the textiles and garments (including handicrafts,